

REMARKS

Claims 9-13, 19, and 21-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 19, 21 and 24 are amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative at the personal interview conducted December 7, 2004. The substance of the interview is incorporated in the following Remarks, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,415,439 to Randell et al. (hereinafter "Randell"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that Randell does not disclose "whacking a deformable piece applied to a surface of a device having a central processing unit," as recited in claim 19.

As discussed during the personal interview, in Randell, the deformable piece is the doll 60 which is not applied to a surface of the device having a central processing unit which is computer 20. There is no central processing unit among the components of the doll 60, as shown in Fig. 7 of Randell. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 9-11, 13 and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Randell in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,923,318 to Zhai et al. (hereinafter "Zhai"). The Office Action rejects claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Randell in view of Zhai and further in view of Official Notice. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As argued above with respect to claim 19, Randell does not disclose "a deformable piece applied to a surface of a hand-held computing device," as recited in claim 21 and similarly recited in claims 24 and 25. As discussed during the personal interview, Zhai does not remedy the deficiencies of Randell with respect to claims 21, 24 and 25, as Zhai also does not disclose a deformable piece applied to a surface of a hand-held computing device. Zhai

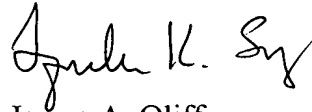
discloses in column 5, lines 32-40, a deformable piece, housing 22, surrounding a sensor 28 (see column 5, lines 16-18). The housing 22 may also incorporate a plurality of piezoelectric switches 64, as disclosed in column 5, lines 61-63, or a plurality of radially oriented fiber optic light filaments 90 as disclosed in column 6, lines 5-7. Each of the devices 28, 64 and 90 only detect the presence of a switching event, or track the position of the input device, and therefore are not hand-held computing devices. Accordingly, as agreed to during the personal interview, the combination of Randell with Zhai does not disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in claims 21, 24 and 25.

Claims 22-23 depend from claim 21, and claims 9-13 and 26 depend from claim 25. Therefore, claims 9-13, 22-23 and 26 are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 21 and 25, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 9-13 and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 9-13, 19 and 21-26 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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